

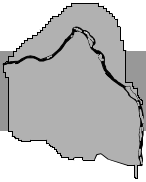


*Hanford Site*

## **Groundwater/Vadose Zone Integration Project**

# **Expert Panel Meeting February 1-3, 1999 Closing Comments**

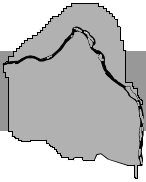
**Presented by:     Dr. Edgar Berkey  
                             Panel Chairman**



## **The Meeting focused on three topics:**

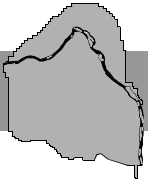
- Status of the Integration Project
- Review of the Project Specification
- Review of the Applied Science and Technology Plan

We had a healthy and constructive dialogue on all topics. Strengths and weaknesses were discussed. A written set of comments will follow.



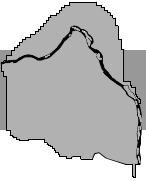
## Overall Comments

- The Integration Project faces many obstacles to success . . . Some controllable, some influencable
- The Project is breaking new ground . . . Sometimes in places where there is thick “Perma-frost”
- Achieving Project objectives has not yet become a widely-shared vision at Hanford . . . It must for the Project to succeed
- Progress is slow but discernable -- Individual work elements vary widely in progress
- In short, the Integration Project is not yet integrated



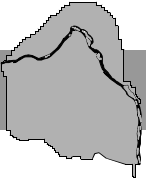
## **The Project Specification could become a more useful document. It needs to . . .**

- Clearly specify strategic objectives
  - Integrated information to support key Groundwater/Vadose Zone related decisions on site
- Indicate how work elements will be integrated to support key decisions
- Indicate how priorities will be set
- Explain how interfaces and communications will be managed
- Indicate how contingencies will be managed



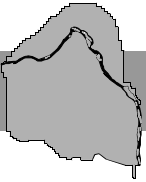
# Project Specification

- Main messages now blurred by how it is organized
- Suggest separating material on “what” Project is about from informational and reference material needed to support the Project
- Needs to tie all work elements more clearly into the key decision points of the Project
  - System Assessment Capability
  - Applied Science and Technology Plan
  - Core Projects



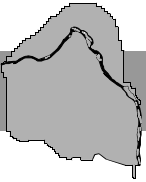
## **The Panel has major concerns about:**

- **System Assessment Capability**
  - Status
  - Understanding of Project objectives
  - Ability to deliver
  - May not yet be “out of control” but it is clearly not “under control”
- **Risk Assessment Effort**
  - Status
  - Likelihood of delivering needed information
  - Not yet integrated into Project



# Applied Science and Technology Plan

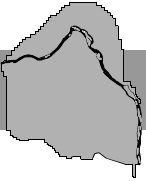
- Best, most cohesive document produced by the Project so far
- The Plan:
  - Links with Project decision points
  - Indicates decision-making process
  - Establishes priorities
  - Recognizes linkages and uncertainties
  - Conveys confidence that the next level of detail will be there when needed
- It's "Implementation Time" for the most relevant projects



## Next Steps for the Panel

- We have appreciated the candor of the input we have received
- It is not our ultimate goal to provide criticism regarding the Project
- It is our goal to offer constructive recommendations
- Our Sub-Panel activities are about to accelerate
  - Interaction with Stakeholders and Tribal Nations
  - Peer Review Process
  - Modeling of Groundwater/Vadose Zone
  - Field Investigations and Data Gathering





## Next Steps for the Panel Continued

- We are available to assist further with the Project Specification, System Assessment Capability, and Risk . . . in the spirit of providing specific advice